SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 569

(SENATE AUTHORS: MARTY, McEwen, Johnson Stewart, Dibble and Kupec)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
01/23/2025	162	Introduction and first reading Referred to Elections
02/13/2025	362	Comm report: To pass and re-referred to Rules and Administration

A resolution

memorializing Congress to overturn the United States Supreme Court decision Citizens United v. FEC; requesting that Congress clarify that the rights protected under the Constitution are the rights of natural persons and not the rights of artificial entities and that spending money to influence elections is not speech under the First Amendment; asking that Congress propose a constitutional amendment to provide such clarification.

WHEREAS, when the states and federal government first authorized the creation of corporations, they were regulated by the people and their elected representatives through law; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court granted constitutional rights to corporations thereby limiting the right of the people to regulate corporations through federal, state, or local law; and

WHEREAS, Supreme Court rulings on political spending in recent decades have undermined the First Amendment, which was designed, even according to the Supreme Court in 1976, "to secure the widest possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources," and "to assure the unfettered interchange of ideas for the bringing about of political and social changes desired by the people." Supreme Court rulings that have equated money as speech have enabled people, corporations, and other entities to spend virtually unlimited money in support of favored candidates and interests, undermining the core First Amendment value of open and robust debate in the political process and the opportunity for voters to hear speech from all candidates and all perspectives; and

WHEREAS, by giving artificial entities the constitutional rights of persons and treating money as speech, the courts have undercut the rights of citizens to equal and meaningful participation in the democratic process, and given corporations and other entities more power than people when government is supposed to be "of the people, by the people, and for the people"; and

WHEREAS, this undermines public confidence in the democratic process and democratic institutions; and

WHEREAS, under Article V of the Constitution of the United States, the Congress, whenever two-thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to the Constitution; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that it requests that Congress propose an amendment to the Constitution that shall substantially read as follows:

"(1) The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only.

(2) Any entity, including any organization or association of one or more persons, established or allowed by the laws of any State, the United States, or any Foreign State shall have no rights under this Constitution separate from the rights of its members, and is subject to regulation by the people, through Federal, State, or local law through which the entity is granted rights and given responsibilities.

(3) Federal, State, and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their economic status, have access to the political process, and that no person gains, as a result of their money, substantially more access or ability to influence in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure.

(4) Federal, State, and local government shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed to prepare copies of this resolution and transmit them to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the United States Secretary of State, and Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress.